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Viewing cable 08BOGOTA119, AMBASSADOR BROWNFIELD'S DECEMBER 19 MEETING WITH

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags **#cablegate** and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. **#08BOGOTA119**.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
08BOGOTA119	2008-01-09 20:36	2011-08-30 01:44	CONFIDENTIAL	Embassy Bogota

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.elespectador.com/wikileaks>

VZCZCXYZ0003
PP RUEHWEB

DE RUEHBO #0119 0092036
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 092036Z JAN 08
FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0865
INFO RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY 9752
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ JAN 9165
RUEHPE/AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY 5769
RUEHZP/AMEMBASSY PANAMA PRIORITY 1063
RUEHQT/AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY 6474
RUEHGL/AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY 4256
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 000119

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 01/09/2017
TAGS: [KJUS](#) [PGOV](#) [PINR](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [CO](#)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR BROWNFIELD'S DECEMBER 19 MEETING WITH

Classified By: Ambassador William R. Brownfield Reason: 1.4(b,d)

¶1. (C) Summary: Senate President Nancy Patricia Gutierrez told the Ambassador there is much support for the United States and the bilateral Free Trade Agreement in the Colombian Congress. She criticized opposition party members who attack the Uribe administration and the United States, but do not offer constructive alternatives to address Colombia's problems. Gutierrez said some Colombians felt the USG was only preoccupied with its own hostages. She appreciated the institutional-building efforts made during Congressman David Price's visit in August, but encouraged more exchanges to enhance relations between the Colombian and U.S. Congress. End Summary.

¶2. (U) Senate President Nancy Patricia Gutierrez (Cambio Radical party) told the Ambassador on December 19 she would like to strengthen institutional relations, including more exchanges and visits, with the U.S. Congress. She expressed appreciation for Congressman David Price's visit to Bogota in August to fortify these efforts. Gutierrez stressed that despite opposition criticism of the United States, most Colombian legislators recognize the importance of U.S. support for Plan Colombia and want closer bilateral ties.

¶3. (C) Gutierrez judged that Senator Piedad Cordoba was using the media and political allies in Washington to put pressure on President Uribe. It would have been more appropriate if Cordoba had made her public accusations that a senior GOC officials had threatened to kill her to the Colombian Congress or security forces instead of during her visit to Washington. Gutierrez also criticized Senator Gustavo Petro (opposition Polo Democratico Alternativo party) for fanning anti-free trade and anti-Uribe flames during his trips to Washington.

¶4. (C) The Senate president said some analysts accuse the USG of only being concerned about the three Americans held by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and not the Colombian hostages. The Ambassador assured her we hope for the release of all hostages, regardless of nationality. He also underscored USG acceptance of various channels to reach a humanitarian solution and viewed positively the roles played by Latin American and European leaders, as well as the Catholic Church, as long as they enjoy GOC support. The USG will continue to back GOC efforts to obtain the hostages' release.

¶5. (C) On the proposed bill regarding the legal status of 18,000 demobilized paramilitary, Gutierrez doubted it could pass in the new year, even with modifications. There was no motivation to approve it. If the GOC presents a new proposal, Congress would consider it. She said some Congress members feel uneasy about overstepping the authority of the Supreme Court and getting pulled into a legal battle between the Court and President Uribe. The bill responded to a July Supreme Court ruling which left the legal status of 18,000 rank-and-file paramilitaries in limbo.

¶6. (SBU) Gutierrez expressed concerns over language on intellectual property laws in the Free Trade Agreement (FTA), but agreed the FTA was both economically and politically important for bilateral relations. She said she would be happy to meet with visiting Congressional delegations and hoped to visit Washington in the near future.
Brownfield